

Minutes - Acton Commission on Disability

February 10, 2005

Present: J. Feasel, L. Franklin, E. Leary, J. Nigro, B. Viola

Guest: Beatrice Maimone

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM.

Minutes of the January meeting were reviewed and accepted

New Business:

Variance Requests: Five requests from Acton and Acton/Boxborough Public Schools were reviewed. The recommendations of the Commission will be forwarded to the Architectural Access Board as follows:

Parker Damon Building time variance: This request will not limit substantial benefit to individuals with disabilities

R.J. Grey Jr. High time variance: This request will not limit substantial benefit to individuals with disabilities

R.J. Grey Jr. High correction of sidewalk cross slope: There would be substantial benefit to individuals with disabilities if this sidewalk were brought into compliance. We recommend that the Board not grant this variance.

Conant School time variance: This request will not limit substantial benefit to individuals with disabilities.

Conant School play ground access: There would be substantial benefit to individuals with disabilities if this play area were made accessible to all students. We recommend that the Board not grant this variance.

Membership: Beatrice Maimone is interested in becoming a member of the Commission. Members advised her of the process.

Old Business:

Community Awareness

Commission summaries for public service announcements and presentation at community meetings were reviewed and edited. Brenda Viola will attend the Administrative Council meeting of the Acton and Acton Boxboro Public Schools tomorrow, February 11th and will present this information.

It was recommended that Jean forward the Summary of Activities along with contact and meeting information to the Beacon, and the new Acton newspaper, the Acton Weekly. Joan Cass is the contact there. Channel 8 can also be contacted.

Universal Trail

Lisa had a conversation with one of the boy scouts working on the trail. At this point in time funding is not needed. The Scouts are also working on an "outdoor classroom" behind the Parker Damon Building. This may be a venue for inclusive community activities.

Town Report

Brenda prepared a summary for the Town Report which was reviewed and approved by the Commission, with a recommendation that a log be added that summarizes examples of Commission support to individual residents on specific issues. Once edited the write up will be forwarded to Town Hall for inclusion in the report.

Housing Surveys

Housing surveys are ready for distribution. We need collection boxes. Jean's daughter will work on making some.

Transportation

John Brako attended the Transportation Forum. The contact at the forum is Sandy Campbell. John is now a member of the Steering Committee for Transportation. At the forum plans were summarized to investigate possible increasing hours on the Lowell RTA. The Board of Selectmen addressed the LRTA issue at last week's meeting. The town needs to designate a liaison to the RTA. The Transportation Advisory Committee has been asked by the town manager to take on that role. We would like to be available as a resource to the committee.

Meeting Guests

Jean will extend an invitation to Nancy Kolb to attend either our March or April meeting.

Community Forum

There was a discussion of planning strategies for a series of town get-togethers that would focus on activities/information and would be targeted to include all town residents, particularly those with disabilities. Several ideas were suggested including a sports focused activity that Ross Lilley has presented. Members should e-mail Lisa with any additional ideas.

The meeting was adjourned a 8:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Jean Nigro, Secretary